a Seminar, nor of the proceedings or recommendations thereof. However, Government's attention has been drawn to a report that appeared in the press regarding the meeting held in Delhi University on 'Bhopal— Issues, Old and New' organised by the Delhi Committee on the Bhopal Gas Tragedy.

Government have already initiated action to review saiety standards with a view to strengthening and streamlining such measures.

(d) Government has no such proposal under its consideration.

Wells explored in Mahanadi onshore

2336. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of PETRO. LEUM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of wells explored in the Mahanadi onshore area so far which have been lined up for the first phase of the Seventh Five Year Plan period;

(b) what are the other areas selected for oil drilling in the country for indigenous production of petroleum; and

(c). what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA): (a) to (c) No exploratory well has been drilled in Mahanadi onshore area of Orissa.

The details regarding further ex ploratory programme in Mahanadi on shore and other areas during the VII Plan period would be available only after the finalization of the VII Five Year Plan.

12 NOON

CHAIRMAN'S RULING RE. ALLEGED BREACH OF PRIVILEGE BY SHRI V. P. SINGH, MINISTER OF FINANCE & COMMERCE, BY MAKING CERTAIN ANNOUNCE-MENT OUTSIDE THE HOUSE ON 10TH AUGUST, 1985

MR. CHAIRMAN: On August 12, 1985, Shri Lai K. Advani raised, with my permission, a question of breach of propriety .allegedly committed by the Minister of Finance and Commerce, Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh, by making certain policy announcements outside the House on Saturday, the 10th August, 1983, when the House was in session. Shri Advani referred to the various rulings from the Chair and the established convention and practice in this behalf. Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy also lent support to the contention of Shri Advani saying that the particular announcements of the Minister outside the House were important policy statements.

Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh, thereafter, clarified the position. He stated that the two important announcements—one regarding abolition of minimum export price (MEP) on tea and the other regarding the extension of the International Prices Reimbursement Scheme (IPRS)i to certain other alloys did not amount to Policy Statements. He contended that these were administrative decisions. In so far as abolition of MEP on tea was concerned, he stated that it was an administrative decision taken to respond to the international market situation. So far as the IPRS was concerned, it had earlier been adopted as a matter of policy and its extension ,to other alloy steels was an administrative decision, and not a policy decision. The Minister stated that there was no impropriety in making those announcements outside the House.

Subsequently I received a detailed note from the Minister giving the background as well as the gist of